

REMARKS

Claims 11, 14-16 and 21-35 are pending. Claims 11 and 14 are amended, claim 13 is cancelled and new claims 22-35 are added herein. It is to be appreciated that while reference may be made back to certain parts of the application in this Reply (e.g., page numbers, line numbers, Figs., etc.), that such referencing is not to be interpreted in a limiting manner (e.g., to limit the scope of the claims and/or features therein to the particular portion(s) referenced), but is instead merely done for purposes of explanation, illustration and/or ease of understanding. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments made herein, the substance of some which were discussed in a telephone conversation between the Examiner and the undersigned on or about May 17, 2007 and memorialized in the Examiner's Interview Summary dated June 5, 2007.

I. OATH/DECLARATION

The oath or declaration was deemed defective, and a new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) was required. Response to this oath or declaration issue is held in abeyance pending resolution of rejections addressed below.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11, 13-16 AND 21 UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 11, 13-16 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyman (4,988,216) in view of Lewis (2,068,058) and White (2,023,457). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 13 is cancelled herein.

Independent claim 11 is amended herein to provide that the first fastening means comprises a first length of material operatively associated with the first portion of the body near the open end of the sack, and a second length of material operatively associated with the second portion of the body near the open end of the sack, where

the first and second lengths of material are separate and distinct lengths of material discontinuous from one another.

It is respectfully submitted that Lyman does not teach these features. For example, the drawstring 36 in Lyman is a continuous length that goes around the opening 13. Lewis and White fail to make up for the deficiencies of Lyman. Accordingly, claim 11, as amended, is allowable over the references cited. Claims 14-16 and 21 depend from independent claim 11 and thus are also allowable over the references cited.

Additionally, claim 14 is amended herein to provide that the first and second lengths of material are configured to fasteningly engage one another at a location substantially centered over the end of the sack, regardless of whether the sack is in reversed or un-reversed configurations (see, for example, Figs. 3 and 4 of the instant application). It is respectfully submitted that the references cited fail to teach this arrangement as they depict fastening engagement(s) on an outside side of a bag.

Withdrawal of this rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

III. NEW CLAIMS

Claims 22-35 are added herein and are believe to be allowable for at least the following reasons.

New claims 22 and 23 depend from independent claim 11, and thus are believed to be allowable over the references cited, at least, for the foregoing reasons. Further, claims 22 and 23 provide that the at least one button secured to an inside of the body of the sack and the at least one button secured to an outside of the body of the sack engage corresponding button hole(s) at a location substantially centered over the end of the sack, regardless of whether the sack is in reversed or un-reversed configurations (see, for example, Figs. 3 and 4 of the instant application). It is respectfully submitted that the references cited fail to teach this arrangement since they depict fastening engagement(s) on an outside side of a bag.

Claims 24-35 are believed to be allowable over the references cited for at least some of the foregoing reasons as at least some of these claims comprise at least some of the limitations discussed above. Allowance of new claims 22-35 is therefore respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this Reply, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 50-1733, SHENP101US.

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